

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2004
Sacramento, CA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gay Timmons
Bill Reichle
Richard Krenzel
James Rickert
Larry Hirahara
Joseph Hall
Timothy O'Keefe
Rick Melnicoe
Deanna Marquart
Diane Cooner
Pat Kennelly
Stacy Carlsen
Lauree Bradley
Sean Swezey
Karen Klonsky, Voting Alternate
Solomon Teklu, Voting Alternate
Scott Silverman, Alternate

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Rick Jensen
Ray Green
Susan Shelton
Janice Price

INTERESTED PARTIES

Jake Lewin, CCOF
Chip Sundstrom
Betsy Peterson
Katherine Borchard
William H. Bent, USDA
Paul Amador, USDA
Robert J. Simas
Pablo Guzman
Troy Ayken

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Gay Timmons called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. Introductions were made. A quorum was established.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2004 MEETING MINUTES

Diane Cooner requested clarification on item 5.b. The minutes stated, "The California Organic Products Act (COPA 2003) put this into the Federal Organic Law". This should have stated that due process in COPA came from existing Federal Organic Law.

Additionally, there was a typographical error in item 14, and Stacy Carlsen should be listed as a committee member attendee.

MOTION: Joseph Hall moved to approve the minutes as amended. Diane Cooner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: CHAIR REPORT – GAY TIMMONS

Gay Timmons announced that new officers would be elected at the next COPAC meeting.

ITEM 4: VICE CHAIR REPORT

No report at this time.

ITEM 5: CDFA REPORT – RAY GREEN

A. COST SHARE UPDATE

Ray Green reported that as of October 8, 2004, \$694,847.59 has been reimbursed to organic operations via the cost share program. CDFA has currently expended all Federal funds. However, Bob Pooler of the National Organics Program (NOP), has verbally agreed to issue another \$269,000 to finish paying those applications on hand and to extend the program for a third year. Final approval is pending.

Replying to a question by Karen Klonsky, Ray stated that approximately 1,500 checks have been sent. He will report the actual number at the next meeting.

B. ENFORCEMENT

Ray gave the committee members a handout listing the CDFA Organic Program Summaries for July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. He reported the following:

Total Spot Inspections	240
New Registrants	247
Registrant Renewals	1985
Registrations Dropped	358

The County Agricultural Commissioner offices contract with the State to conduct the spot inspections. Action was taken each time a violation was found.

C. BUDGET

Ray handed out the Organic Fund Condition Statement and the Organic Program Budget for the 2004/2005 Fiscal Year. Both current and historical revenue and expenditures were listed. A short discussion and explanation of some of the line items was given. The budget was approved at the August 17, 2004 COPAC meeting.

As of June 30, 2004 the 2003/04 fiscal year ending balance for the organic program was \$1,049,312. That balance is expected to reach \$1,387,891 by the end of the 2006/07 fiscal year. Rick Jensen suggested that a subcommittee be set up to develop recommendations to CDFA regarding this surplus.

The COPAC Ad Hoc Budget Surplus Subcommittee was set up with Sean Swezey, Diane Cooner, James Rickert, Gay Timmons, and Stacy Carlsen serving. Myron Cooper will be extended an invitation to serve on this subcommittee.

D. FARMERS MARKET REGULATION CHANGES

Janice Price, Program Supervisor of the Certified Farmers' Market Program, reported that the comment period ended October 24, 2004 regarding the proposed regulation to:

1. Require any person selling or representing organic products to post their organic registration and applicable certification.
2. Provide a modification or grant permission to organic farmers selling at CFMs to conceal from public view, acreage and dollar amount of annual sales as defined in Public Records Act.
3. Require market operators, upon request of enforcement officers, to provide for review, their current valid CFM certificate.

E. ORGANIC MAPPING PROJECT

Ray Green updated the committee on the progress of the organic mapping project. Yao Nguessan continues to work on creating the database, which will be accessible via the Internet. It is estimated that this program will be completed in the next six to eight months.

F. SOP POLICY AND PROCESS

Ray Green reported the Department has developed draft paragraphs that could be included in notices certifiers are sending to their clients. That draft language will be submitted to USDA/NOP staff for review and approval before being sent to certifiers operating in California.

ITEM 6: DHS REPORT – PAT KENNELLY

Pat Kennelly gave the committee a handout of the DHS Organic Revenue/Expenditures for October 2003 through September 2004. The total for that time period for personnel services, operating expenses and indirect costs was \$202,489. The total organic registration revenue was \$201,650.

ITEM 7: FINAL DRAFT OF THE COPA NEWSLETTER – GAY TIMMONS AND DIANE COONER

Gay Timmons passed out a draft copy of the California Organic Program Newsletter that she and Diane Cooner have been working on. Still to be added are the COPA Managers Report by Ray Green, DHS and State web addresses and contacts, and various miscellaneous information such as future meeting dates.

A final draft will be compiled and approved by COPAC before the first issue starts to go out in new and renewal registration packets.

ITEM 8: MEMBER REPORTS

Karen Klonsky reported that for the first time the Census of Agriculture has information regarding the organic industry. Unfortunately when comparing the reported income on the census with CDFA's numbers, it seems that income was under reported on the census by half.

Tim O'Keefe and Stacy Carlsen reported on the GMO referendums that were recently on four county ballots. These referendums were to establish an ordinance to ban planting GMO crops and restrict research in each applicable county. The results were as follows:

San Mateo County	Failed
Marin County	Passed
Butte and Humbolt Counties	Failed

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS

Larry Hirahara asked for an explanation of the enforcement process. Ray Green explained that the certifier is the front line enforcement. They can write notices of non-compliance and propose suspension or revocation. The County Agricultural Commissioners' offices and the State work with and support the certifiers. In cases of criminal intent, the State will handle all steps of enforcement. Lastly, the NOP can take action at any level.

Meeting dates for the year have been set as February 1st, May 3rd, August 2nd, and October 25th, 2005.

Rick Jensen clarified that the letter from CDFA to Barbara Robinson, dated September 12, 2002 contained an error. The letter stated that the "support of the current language regulating Sodium (Chilean) Nitrate" was unanimous. In fact, Solomon Teklu was in opposition and Sara Hawthorne questioned alternatives.

Gay Timmons stated that she wished to write a letter to the Governor's Office requesting their support for CDFA to convene a task force on genetic engineering. A discussion ensued regarding the need for a well-controlled and mediated assembly, where procedures could be written that would be beneficial to all parties affected. It was decided that instead of sending a letter to the Governor's Office, a COPAC subcommittee would be created to write a letter to Secretary Kawamura. This subcommittee will include Gay Timmons, Diane Cooner, Stacy Carlsen, Larry Hirahara, and Rick Melnicoe.

Ray Green announced that the CDFA's Center for Analytical Chemistry can analyze samples for GMO's. This would be a fee-for-service and will cost approximately \$1,000 per test.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: James Rickert moved to adjourn the meeting. Karen Klonsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ray Green, Supervisor
Organic Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services